

(2) In determining the quality of the plan of evaluation, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the plan of evaluation provides for periodic assessment of progress toward—

(A) Implementing the plan of operation; and

(B) Achieving the project's intended outcomes and expected impacts.

(ii) The extent to which the plan of evaluation will be used to improve the performance of the project through the feedback generated by its periodic assessments.

(iii) The extent to which the plan of evaluation provides for periodic assessment of a project's progress that is based on identified performance measures that—

(A) Are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and expected impacts on the target population; and

(B) Are objective, and quantifiable or qualitative, as appropriate.

(n) *Project staff.* (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the project staff.

(2) In determining the quality of the project staff, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following:

(i) The extent to which the key personnel and other key staff have appropriate training and experience in disciplines required to conduct all proposed activities.

(ii) The extent to which the commitment of staff time is adequate to accomplish all the proposed activities of the project.

(iii) The extent to which the key personnel are knowledgeable about the methodology and literature of pertinent subject areas.

(iv) The extent to which the project staff includes outstanding scientists in the field.

(v) The extent to which key personnel have up-to-date knowledge from

research or effective practice in the subject area covered in the priority.

(o) *Adequacy and accessibility of resources.* (1) The Secretary considers the adequacy and accessibility of the applicant's resources to implement the proposed project.

(2) In determining the adequacy and accessibility of resources, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the applicant is committed to provide adequate facilities, equipment, other resources, including administrative support, and laboratories, if appropriate.

(ii) The quality of an applicant's past performance in carrying out a grant.

(iii) The extent to which the applicant has appropriate access to clinical populations and organizations representing individuals with disabilities to support advanced clinical rehabilitation research.

(iv) The extent to which the facilities, equipment, and other resources are appropriately accessible to individuals with disabilities who may use the facilities, equipment, and other resources of the project.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1820-0027)

(Authority: Secs. 202 and 204; 29 U.S.C. 761a and 762)

**§ 350.55 What are the additional considerations for selecting Field-Initiated Project applications for funding?**

(a) The Secretary reserves funds to support some or all of the Field-Initiated Project applications that have been awarded points totaling 80% or more of the maximum possible points under the procedures described in § 350.53.

(b) In making a final selection of applications to support as Field-Initiated Projects, the Secretary considers the extent to which applications that have been awarded a rating of 80% or more of the maximum possible points and meet one or more of the following conditions:

(1) The proposed project represents a unique opportunity to advance rehabilitation knowledge to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities.

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(2) The proposed project complements research already planned or funded by the NIDRR through annual priorities published in the FEDERAL REGISTER or addresses the research in a new and promising way.

(Authority: Secs. 202 (g) and (i)(1); 29 U.S.C. 761a(g) and 761a(i)(1))

### **Subpart G—What Conditions Must Be Met After an Award?**

#### **§ 350.60 How must a grantee conduct activities?**

A grantee must—

(a) Conduct all activities in a manner that is accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities; and

(b) If a grantee carries out more than one activity, carry out integrated activities.

(Authority: Secs. 202 and 204(b)(2); 29 U.S.C. 761a and 762(b))

#### **§ 350.61 What evaluation requirements must a grantee meet?**

(a) A grantee must establish performance measures for use in its evaluation that—

(1) Are clearly related to the—

(i) Intended outcomes of the project; and

(ii) Expected impacts on the target population; and

(2) To the extent possible are quantifiable, or are objective and qualitative.

(b) A grantee must make periodic assessments of progress that will provide the grantee with performance feedback related to—

(1) Progress in implementing the plan of operation; and

(2) Progress in achieving the intended outcomes and expected impacts as assessed by the established performance measures.

(Authority: Secs. 202 and 204; 29 U.S.C. 761a and 762)

#### **§ 350.62 What are the matching requirements?**

(a)(1) The Secretary may make grants to pay for part of the costs of research and demonstration projects that bear directly on the development of procedures, methods, and devices to assist the provision of vocational and

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other rehabilitation services, and research training and career development projects.

(2) Each grantee must participate in the costs of those projects.

(3) The specific amount of cost sharing to be borne by each grantee—

(i) Is negotiated at the time of the award; and

(ii) Is not considered in the selection process.

(b)(1) The Secretary may make grants to pay for part or all of the costs of—

(i) Establishment and support of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers and Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers; and

(ii) Specialized research or demonstration activities described in section 204(b)(2)–(16) of the Act.

(2) The Secretary determines at the time of the award whether the grantee must pay a portion of the project or center costs.

(Authority: Sec. 204; 29 U.S.C. 762)

#### **§ 350.63 What are the requirements of a grantee relative to the Client Assistance Program?**

All Projects and Centers that provide services to individuals with disabilities with funds awarded under this Program must—

(a) Advise those individuals who are applicants for or recipients of services under the Act, or their parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, of the availability and purposes of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) funded under the Act; and

(b) Provide information on the means of seeking assistance under the CAP.

(Authority: Sec. 20; 29 U.S.C. 718a)

#### **§ 350.64 What is the required duration of the training in an Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Project?**

A grantee for an Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Project shall provide training to individuals that is at least one academic year, unless a longer training period is necessary to ensure that each trainee is qualified to